

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9299

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIA - FY 76 PARA: THE U.S. AND THE K.L. DECLARATION

REF: (A) STATE 55545; (B) KL A-0007

1. THE ASEAN PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS: (1) AGREEMENT REGARDING THE CONCILIATION OF REGIONAL DIFFERENCES THROUGH "GOOD OFFICES" (E.G. THE INDONESIAN ROLE IN THE MALAYSIAN-PHILIPPINE DISPUTE OVER SABAH AND THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES), AND (2) RECOGNITION BY THE U.S., PRC AND USSR OF A NEUTRALITY ZONE IN THE AREA OCCUPIED BY THE 10 SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES. THE PRC HAS ENDORSED THE SCHEME IN VAGUE TERMS, AND THE SOVIETS HAVE SAID THAT THEIR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL IS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ASEAN PROPOSAL.

2. IN CONTRAST, THE U.S. HAS CONFINED ITSELF TO REPEATING THE SENTENCE ON PAGE 52 (LINES 23-25) OF THE SECRETARY'S 1971 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT LEADING THE GOM TO CONCLUDE THAT WE OPPOSE ONE OF ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES. SINCE NOT EVEN THE GOM BELIEVES THAT THE ZONE WILL COME INTO BEING IN THE NEAR FUTURE, U.S. FAILURE TO COMMENT FAVORABLY IS DISTURBING AND SOME GOM OFFICIALS SEE US AS AN ADVERSARY IN THIS CONTEXT. THE EMBASSY FEELS

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THAT THIS IS UNNECESSARY SINCE PART I OF THE PROPOSAL IS UNQUESTIONABLY CONSTRUCTIVE. PART II IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTIVE IN THAT IT WOULD INHIBIT THE SOVIETS AND THE CHINESE AS WELL AS OURSELVES. FURTHERMORE, IT IS SUFFICIENTLY IMPRECISE THAT WE CAN GENERALLY ENDORSE, IT AS A WORTHWHILE LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE; SUCH AN ENDORSEMENT COMMITS US TO NOTHING.

3. EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS WE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY MAKE ARE:

A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS REGIONAL INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE ONE TAKEN BY THE ASEAN NATIONS TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITHIN THE REGION WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND TO PROMOTE LONG-TERM REGIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS AND NEEDS; SUCH ENDEAVORS ACCORD WITH THE GOALS OF AMERICAN POLICY REGARDING REGIONAL SELF-HELP AND RESILIENCE.

B. THE U.S. ENDORSES THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASEAN PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY. WE WELCOME REGIONAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE INTRA-ZONAL DISPUTES AND TO DEVELOP COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS LEADING TOWARD LASTING PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND GUARANTEEING THE SECURE INDEPENDENCE OF ALL SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

C. THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, AS A DESIRABLE OBJECTIVE, IS AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND ONE THAT SHOULD HARMONIZE THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIONS CONCERNED AND NOT PROMOTE BLOC ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS AGAINST A SINGLE NATION IN THE REGION OR AGAINST A NATION OR GROUP OF NATIONS OUTSIDE THE REGION.

D. THE U.S. IS CONFIDENT, MOREOVER, THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY WILL BE IN CONFORMITY WITH PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COMITY AMONG NATIONS. (NOTE: REFERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW WOULD, INTER ALIA, PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS REGARDING TRANSIT THROUGH THE
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REGION FOR U.S. WARSHIPS AND AIRCRAFT.)
UNDERHILL

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